

Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission Meeting

October 9, 2014

Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce

Member attendees: Chair Patti Torno; Vice Chair Stephanie Brown; Asheville City Councilman Jan Davis; Buncombe County Commissioner David King; Woodfin Mayor Jerry Vehaun; Pam Turner; Peter Sprague; Karl Koon; George Morosani Ricky Silver; Joe Ferikes; Cindy Weeks; Carleton Collins; Esther Cartwright

Staff: Stephanie Monson; Gary Jackson; Sam Powers; Shannon Tuch; Caroline Long

Chair Patti Torno opened the meeting at 4:03 pm.

ADMINISTRATION:

- The meeting has a quorum.
- The September meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

UPDATES:

- Planning and Design Review Committee: update by committee member Carleton Collins. Last meeting occurred October 1.
 - Did not have projects to review;
 - Discussed recoding process: explained Form-Based Code and encouraging density and mixed-use development. Carleton noted he believes this committee should be the lead advisory group for that process.
 - The committee will assist city staff in the creation of an RFP to hire a consultant for the re-coding initiative. This initiative will take approximately 12 months once the consultant is hired, hopefully no later than Spring 2015.
 - Anticipate reviewing River Mill Lofts at the next meeting.
- Networking Subcommittee – update by Peter Sprague, Chair. Last met on October 6.
 - The Subcommittee is working on networking with the appointing boards and is asking each member to suggest one way to improve this communication.
 - Added Joe Ferikes to the Networking Subcommittee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Shannon Tuch, Director, City of Asheville Development Services Department, gave Dilapidated and Unsafe Buildings Update and distributed an Action Plan, discussed goals, tactics and performance measures. She stated they are hoping to begin implementing this program within the next 4-6 months.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ben VanCamp, Chair, Asheville Parks & Greenways Foundation gave a presentation.

- He discussed the history of the Foundation, and explained that their current workload is developing a community and working on planning. He gave an overview of the Foundation's 2015 plan.
- The Foundation has funded a feasibility and concept study for a Whitewater Park between 12 Bones and the Craven Street Bridge.
 - Stephanie Brown asked whether this would divert the river or be a project within the current riverway; Ben stated it could be either.
 - Patti Torno noted that this project was not included in the Riverside Drive Development Plan and is shown in a different area in the Wilma Dykeman Riverway Master Plan.
- Exercise for Annual Report: Patti discussed six items and recommended that the Commission choose three focus areas for the upcoming year.
 - Karl recommended adding the Swannanoa Corridor as a focus area as there are currently two projects in the planning stages with over 500 apartments near Biltmore Village
 - Ricky suggested the Commissioners take the list home and review, then work on reaching a consensus at the next AARRC meeting.
 - Stephanie Brown noted that the concept is to choose three items for the Commissioners to be well-informed about, in order to be knowledgeable when advising City Council.
 - Stephanie Monson noted that the Commission should move forward thinking about the Greater River Arts District 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan rather than just the RADTIP (transportation) plan, in order to be more inclusionary.
 - Guillermo Rodriguez, Chair of the Public Art and Cultural Commission, commented on the City's Percent for Art Program and he and AARRC Chair Torno asked the Commissioners to consider 2% for Public Art in the RAD with the development of the new TIGER VI infrastructure.
 - This conversation will continue at the AARRC November 2014 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Timothy Sadler asked the Commissioners to consider looking at the Paint Louis project as an example for handling graffiti in the River Arts Area.